

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 23950 01 OF 02 091940Z

70

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 060518

R 091926Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3083

INFO AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23950

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE'S CENTER PARTIES REGROUP WITHIN THE
PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY

REF: (A) PARIS 14061; (B) PARIS A-476, SEPTEMBER 3

SUMMARY: WITH CONSIDERABLE FANFARE, FRANCE'S SMALL AND
DIVERSE CENTER PARTIES HAVE REGROUPED INTO TWO NEW
FORMATIONS. JEAN LECANUET'S CENTER DEMOCRATS DREW
CLOSER TO THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS; JEAN-JACQUES
SERVAN-SCHREIBER AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT
STAKED OUT A POSITION ON THE CENTER-LEFT. REAL POLICY
DIFFERENCES SEEM LESS IMPORTANT IN MOTIVATING THE
REORGANIZATION THAN DO CONFLICTS OF PERSONALITY AND
TRADITION. BOTH GROUPS REMAIN FIRMLY WITHIN THE
GISCARDIAN MAJORITY COALITION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR GOVERNMENT MINISTERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THE CREATION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 23950 01 OF 02 091940Z

OF NEW "PRIVILEGED TIES" BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT

REPUBLICAN (RI) AND CENTER DEMOCRAT (CD) PARTIES TO WHICH THEY BELONG. A STATEMENT BY MICHEL PONIATOWSKI (INTERIOR, RI), JEAN LECANUET (JUSTICE, CD), PIERRE ABELIN (COOPERATION, CD) AND MICHEL D'ORNANO (INDUSTRY, RI) ON SEPTEMBER 30 DECLARED THE TWO PARTIES WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS OF THE NATION, CREATE "A PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF POLITICAL LIAISON", TAKE A COMMON FRONT TOWARDS OTHER POLITICAL FORMATIONS AND HOLD COMMON ANNUAL CONGRESSES. LECANUET AND PONIATOWSKI SEPARATELY DECLARED THAT THE NEW FORMATION WAS OPEN TO ALL, DIRECTED AGAINST NO ONE, AND THAT ITS TWO COMPONENT PARTIES WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENT CHARACTERS AND OBJECTIVES. AT THE SAME TIME, LECANUET MAINTAINED THAT HIS ACTION WOULD INJECT NEW SPIRIT INTO THE REFORMATEUR MOVEMENT, WHICH HENCEFORTH WOULD REST UPON TWO "PILLARS", THE CD AND THE "RADICAL REFORMER FAMILY".

2. MEANWHILE, THE OTHER REFORMIST PILLAR" WAS TAKING SHAPE. JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER, RADICAL SOCIALIST (RS) PARTY PRESIDENT, ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 1 THE FORMATION OF A NEW "RADICAL SOCIALIST AND REFORMER PARTY". HE AND FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CHIRAC GOVERNMENT -- MINISTER OF LABOR MICHEL DURAFOUR AND SECRETARIES OF STATE FRANCOISE GIROUD, ANDRE ROSSI AND GABRIEL PERONNET -- CALLED FOR A NOVEMBER CONGRESS OF THIS "LEFT REFORMATEUR" MOVEMENT WHICH WOULD "SUPPORT THE RHYTHM OF REFORM AND THUS PUT FRANCE AHEAD OF ITS TIMES". IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TWO DAYS LATER, J-J S-S CLAIMED THAT FRENCHMEN WERE MORE AND MORE DEMONSTRATING A DESIRE TO BE GOVERNED FROM THE LEFT. THE ONLY CHOICE, HE SAID, IS BETWEEN THE "REFORMIST LEFT" AND THE "COLLECTIVIST LEFT". HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ENACT A SIMPLIFIED SEVENTH PLAN AND A PROGRAM TO GIVE MORE POWER TO THE REGIONS, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO DETAILS OF THESE PROPOSITIONS. J-J S-S SAID THE NEW FORMATION SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT" BUT NOT UNCONDITIONALLY. HE IMPLIED HE WOULD SUPPORT GISCARD FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS AND THEN JUDGE HIS PERFORMANCE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 23950 01 OF 02 091940Z

3. COMMENT: THERE IS A CERTAIN LOGIC IN GROUPING AROUND PONIATOWSKI AND LECANUET THOSE WHO SUPPORTED GISCARD ON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE MAY PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTING AND AROUND SERVAN-SCHREIBER THOSE RELUCTANT GISCARDIANS WHO VOTED FOR MITTERRAND THE FIRST TIME AROUND. THE WINNER IN THIS LITTLE DRAMA APPEARS TO BE PONIATOWSKI, WHO, BY BINDING THE CD CLOSER TO HIS OWN PARTY, HAS STRENGTHENED HIS HAND AGAINST HIS COLLEAGUE

AND RIVAL, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC. SERVAN-SCHREIBER
ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE COME OUT AHEAD. HE HAS REUNITED HIS
RADICALS WITH THE CENTER REPUBLICANS (WHO SPLIT FROM
THE RADICALS IN 1954) AND ADDED THE ATTRACTIVE
PERSONALITY OF FRANCOISE GIROUD, WHO HAS FOR THE FIRST
TIME ALIGNED HERSELF WITH A PARTY. J-J S-S, DESPITE
THE ELEMENT OF FARCE WHICH ATTENDS ALL OF HIS POLITICAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 23950 02 OF 02 091944Z

70

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 060584

R 091926Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3084

INFO AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23950

MANEUVERS, AT LEAST HAS PUT HIMSELF BACK IN THE NEWS
AFTER FOUR MONTHS IN LIMBO FOLLOWING HIS DISMISSAL FROM
THE GOVERNMENT (REF A).

4. THE BIG LOSER, AT LEAST IN FACE, IS LECANUET, WHOSE
EARLIER BRAVE CLAIMS TO INDEPENDENCE FROM THE RI AND TO
BE THE "LEFT WING" OF THE NEW MAJORITY (REF B) NOW
APPEAR RIDICULOUS. HE HAS BEEN PERSUADED TO TAKE A

LONG STRIDE TOWARD UNION WITH THE RI, AND IN ANY ALLIANCE WITH PONIATOWSKI, LECANUET WILL BE VERY MUCH THE JUNIOR PARTNER. A FINAL CASUALTY MAY BE THE REFORMATEUR MOVEMENT' DESPITE ITS NOSTALGIC EVOCATION LAST WEEK BY BOTH LECANUET AND J-J S-S (WHO CO-FOUNDED THE MOVEMENT IN 1971); IT MODESTLY FLOURISHED AS AN OPPOSITION GROUP BUT NOW APPEARS TO BE VICTIM OF PROXIMITY TO POWER. THE CENTRIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, "REFORMATEURS, CENTRISTS AND SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS", HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 23950 02 OF 02 091944Z

IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO EXIST FOR THE NEAR FUTURE' AS J-J S-S AND HIS FRIENDS, WHO COUNT ONLY EIGHT DEPUTIES, WOULD BE EVEN MORE IMPOTENT OUTSIDE OF IT.

5. WE CAN BE SURE THAT GISCARD HIMSELF PRESIDED, IF BENIGNLY, OVER THIS REALIGNMENT, WITH WHICH EIGHT OF HIS MINISTERS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES. DESPITE J-J S-S'S DEMI-DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE -- HE HAS REJECTED THE TERM "CENTRIST", AND HIS CLAIM THAT FRANCE DESIRES TO BE GOVERNED FROM THE LEFT IS A RETORT TO GISCARD'S EARLIER DECLARATION THAT FRANCE WANTED TO BE GOVERNED FROM THE CENTER -- HIS FACTION IS REALLY A GINGER GROUP WITHIN THE GISCARDIAN MAJORITY. PROBABLY GISCARD HOPES IT CAN ATTRACT SOME DESERTERS FROM THE UNITED LEFT, ALTHOUGH THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT JUST WHERE THE CENTER ENDS AND THE LEFT BEGINS IN FRENCH POLITICS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC, COMPETING PROGRAMS. MEN OF GOOD WILL IN THE CENTER, ANXIOUS TO AVOID IDENTIFICATION WITH A DISCREDITED RIGHT AND EAGER TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE HEIRS OF THE UNFINISHED FRENCH REVOLUTION, ARE PRONE TO EXAGGERATE THEIR "LEFT" CREDENTIALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE WARY OF A SOCIALIST PARTY WHICH APPEARS TOO "COLLECTIVIST" AND TOO CLOSE TO THE COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR TASTES. LECANUET, J-J S-S, AND MOST OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN LAST WEEK'S REALIGNMENT REMAIN MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CENTER, SEPARATED MORE BY NUANCE, PERSONALITY, AND TRADITION THAN BY POLICY. FOR THE MOMENT, GISCARD OCCUPIES THE ONLY GROUND ON WHICH THEY CAN STAND. THIS IS WHY IN THE LONG RUN THE RECENT CENTRIST MANEUVERS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT UPON THE COURSE OF FRENCH POLITICS. END COMMENT.
IRWIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, REORGANIZATIONS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS23950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0139
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741060/aaaabyxe.tel
Line Count: 219
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PARIS 14061; (B) PARIS A-476, SE, PTEMBER 3
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE'S CENTER PARTIES REGROUP WITHIN THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY
TAGS: PINT, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY), (SERVAN-SCHREIBER, JEAN-JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005